

Remarks

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention. By way of the present amendment, claims 11, 13, 14, 16, and 20 have been amended. New claims 21-25 have also been added to provide additional claim coverage for the invention. Accordingly, claims 11-25 stand pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance in light of the following remarks.

In the official Office action dated July 25, 2005, the Examiner rejected claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards at the invention. Specifically, the Examiner stated that “it” renders the claim indefinite. In order to address concerns raised by the Examiner “it” has been changed to --the control system-- in claim 14. Claims 16 and 20 have also been amended to replace the word “it” with appropriate structure from the respective claims. Claim 13 has also been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for “the microprocessors”. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims continue to be in compliance with 35 U.S.C. § 112, 2nd paragraph. Applicants therefore respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 14 in this regard.

The Examiner further rejected claims 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,736,826 to White et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. For example, claim 11 recites a control means that comprises “... firstly a control box (20) impermeable to radiation and comprising electronic circuit boards, and secondly a power supply box (1) impermeable to radiation and comprising at least one energy supply source...” White et al., however, apparently fails to disclose any structure that is impermeable to radiation as required by claim 11. For example, Column 8, lines 6-54 of the White et al. patent discusses a containment box 96 wherein the box is configured to contain the robot therein. However, there is no discussion of the box being impermeable to radiation. Rather, the containment box is discussed as designed to prevent distribution of contamination to other

areas when moved (see column 8, lines 39-43) but never describes that any portion of the box is “impermeable to radiation” as required by claim 11. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). Applicants further request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claims 12-20 as depending directly or indirectly from independent claim 11 that is believed to be allowable for the reasons set forth above.

Applicants further respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 12-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) since White et al. apparently fails to disclose further limitations required by the claims. For example, with respect to claim 12, White et al. apparently fails to teach or suggest a power supply box with “two power supply sources operating redundantly.” The Examiner refers to column 6, lines 5-20 and fig. 5 that illustrate six batteries for powering the mobile robot. However, there is no apparent teaching or suggestion of two power supply sources operating redundantly as required by claim 12. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 12 for this additional reason.

Claim 13 recites that “the electronic circuit boards comprise several microprocessors operating alternately and processing circuits providing functional control over the microprocessors.” White et al. apparently fails to disclose this further limitation required by claim 13. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 13 for this additional reason.

Claim 14 recites that “the control system is self-configurable to match the manipulation equipment (41) and the carrying equipment (43).” White et al. apparently fails to disclose this further limitation required by claim 14. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 14 for this additional reason.

Claim 15 recites that “the control means (42) comprise circuits for processing status data received from the control means to diagnose failures and operating errors of the equipment (41, 43) and the control means.” White et al. apparently fails to disclose this further limitation required by claim 15. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 15 for this additional reason.

Claim 16 recites, for example, that “the control means are each provided with a base (19, 30), larger than the power supply box (1) and the control box (20), fixed permanently on each equipment to be controlled”. This limitation, as well as further limitations required by claim 16, are apparently missing from the teachings of White et al. For instance, White et al. apparently fails to provide any teaching of a base that is permanently fixed on each equipment to be controlled that includes “means of attachment to a control box (20) or a power supply box (1) onto the base” as further required by claim 16. Accordingly, for this additional exemplary reason, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 16. Applicants further respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claims 17-20 as depending directly or indirectly from claim 16 which is believed to be allowable as discussed above.

Claim 18 recites that “a lead base plate (31) is placed under the base (30) of each control box (20).” White et al. apparently fails to disclose this further limitation required by claim 18. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 18 for this additional reason.

Claim 19 recites that “the power supply boxes (1) and the control boxes (20) each comprise a stainless steel housing closed by a Plexiglas cover (6, 27).” White et al. apparently fails to disclose this further limitation required by claim 19. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 19 for this additional reason.

Claim 20 recites that “the control system comprises gaskets (8, 26) to be used for assembly of the Plexiglas covers (6, 27).” White et al. apparently fails to disclose this further limitation required by claim 20. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 20 for this additional reason.

The Examiner further rejects claims 11-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over White et al. wherein the Examiner takes the position that the former discloses the elements previously discussed and wherein the Examiner takes Official Notice of further elements. Applicants respectfully traverse each position of Official Notice taken by the Examiner. It is not appropriate to take official notice of facts without citing a prior art

reference where the facts asserted to be well known are not capable of instant and unquestionable demonstration as being well-known. See MPEP 2144.03(A). Moreover, it is never appropriate to rely solely on “common knowledge” in the art without evidentiary support in the record, as the principal evidence upon which a rejection was based. See MPEP 2144.03(A) citing In Re Zurko, 258 F.3d 1379, 1385, 59 USPQ2d 1693, 1697 (Fed. Cir. 2001).

The Examiner takes official notice that the use of plural processors in local control application is well known in the art and it would have been obvious to substitute the plural encoders with plural processors. There is no teaching or suggestion to substitute plural encoders with plural processors as suggested by the Examiner. It is noted that claim 11 does not require plural processors. Moreover, with respect to claim 13, the prior art apparently fails to teach or suggest “several microprocessors operating alternately and processing circuits providing functional control over the microprocessors” as required by claim 13. Applicant’s therefore, respectfully request withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 13 for this additional reason.

The Examiner further takes official notice that self configuring control systems are well known in the robotics art. Applicants respectfully traverse this assertion. It is noted that claim 11 does not require a self configuring control system. Moreover, with respect to claim 14, it is improper to rely on common knowledge by way of official notice without evidentiary support in the record when the official notice is the principal evidence upon which a rejection is based. The rejection of claim 14, appears to be based entirely on official notice which is improper since the rejection is not supported by evidence in the record. It is set forth that the control system that is self-configurable to match the manipulation and carrying equipment as set forth in claim 14 is not well known. Applicant’s therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 14 for this additional reason.

The Examiner further takes official notice that lead shielding is well known in the nuclear art and it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a lead base plate at the control box. It is noted that claim 11 does not require a lead base plate. Moreover, with respect to claim 18, it is improper to rely on

common knowledge by way of official notice without evidentiary support in the record when the official notice is the principal evidence upon which a rejection is based. The rejection of claim 18, appears to be based entirely on official notice which is improper since the rejection is not supported by evidence in the record. It is set forth that the a lead base plate being placed under the base of each control box is not well known as recited in claim 18.

Applicant's therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 18 for this additional reason.

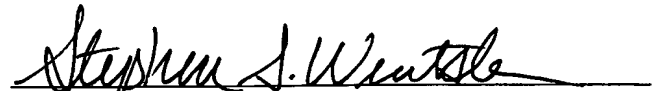
The Examiner further takes official notice that the use of control circuits with diagnostics is well known in the robotics art and that it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to include robotic diagnostics to determine which component has or is about to fail and come up with the instant invention. It is noted that claim 11 does not require the use of control circuits with diagnostics. Moreover, with respect to claim 15, it is improper to rely on common knowledge by way of official notice without evidentiary support in the record when the official notice is the principal evidence upon which a rejection is based. The rejection of claim 15, appears to be based entirely on official notice which is improper since the rejection is not supported by evidence in the record. It is set forth that providing the control means with circuits for processing status data received from the control means to diagnose failures and operating errors of equipment and the control means is not well known as recited in claim 15. Applicant's therefore, respectfully requests withdrawal of the corresponding rejection of claim 15 for this additional reason.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

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Amdt. dated October 24, 2005
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If there are any fees resulting from this communication, please charge such fees to our
Deposit Account No. 16-0820, Order No. 33486.

Respectfully submitted,
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